

August, 2013

Motorcycle Safety**Back to school****Composite Risk Management**

Safety and

Occupational Health

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Drill Bits

Black Hills Rally Safety Concerns.

Anyone who thinks the Black Hills Motorcycle Rally doesn't effect the rest of the state is obviously not from South Dakota. Businesses throughout the state will feel the economic impact as riders from around the world descend on our Great State. However, with riders traveling from everywhere, coupled with the Trailer Queens being pulled by motor homes and RVs of all shapes and size, standard tourist traffic and our own daily commutes, safety on the road must be kept at the highest of priorities.

Many of the participants being of sound mind and body at home could forget that the rest of South Dakota is operating as normal. And some of those people will forget safety. While we do an excellent job of watching out for ourselves for the most part, now we must watch out for the other guy more vigilantly than usual.

Each year we anticipate motorcycle traffic and associated accidents. Unfortunately there will be associated fatalities.

As each Soldier of the SDARNG is a valuable asset, and each family member of our Soldiers is a part of the team, keep-

ing the battle mind on the roads will be just as important in the coming days.

From Sisseton to Elk Point, Edgemont to Buffalo, our highways will be inundated with heavier traffic. Some awe struck by the beauty of South Dakota and the abundant wildlife, others exhausted from a long ride, and some impaired by alcohol, the roads will be more hazardous than usual.

Whether you are a participant of the fun, commuting to work and home or just running to the

grocery store, keep you eyes open and be prepared. Motorcycles seem to appear from nowhere, other traffic may be impatient or aggressive and there will be slower moving traffic than someone else. Stay defensive, give yourself plenty of room for evasive action, don't be in a hurry and stay away from the cocktails and beer if you are riding or driving.

Every life is precious and it is up to us, safe guard ourselves and family each day. Don't let this Rally be a tragic memory for something that could have been prevented.



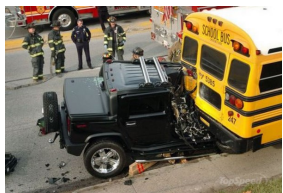
Mt Rushmore is one of the most visible attractions in the Nation, but our state is filled with others. Around the state, be watchful of heavier traffic, aggressive or drunk drivers and pedestrians.



*Want to learn how
to ride a
motorcycle, sharpen
your skills and save
a couple dollars on
your insurance?*



*Watch for students loading
and unloading, leave plenty
of room between your car
and toe next vehicle, espe-
cially buses and watch for
children crossing.*



Motorcycle Safety and your unit

For many years the National Guard has been very clear on the Motorcycle Safety Program, and our state is fortunate to have a great Safety Training Program for all riders.

Yet, surprisingly many soldiers are still unaware that motorcycle safety training fees for any Soldier are 100% reimbursable.

Every Soldier that rides, who has over a years experience can attend the ERC (Experienced Rider Course) to gain more insight on the abilities of the rider and the bike. A rider takes their bike through the 4 to 5 hour course learning and fine tuning specific skills. This class can be repeated every three years.

For the novice or merely interested, a Soldier can attend the BRC (Basic Rider Course). The bike is provided through the

Safety Council, the time is donated by the participant (usually 15 hours of classroom and range training). Some people take the course and find that this is not for them, while others can take the completion certificate to the local DMV and receive the endorsement for motorcycle operations.

Also, many insurance companies provide a discount for the training.

Participants of either the ERC or BRC must provide their own PPE, to include DOT approved helmet, leather gloves, long sleeve shirt, full length pants, over the ankle leather footwear, and appropriate eye protection (if not incorporated in the helmet).

The course is paid for up front during registration and reimbursed to the Soldier upon completion through DTS.

Commanders, ISGs and readiness personnel are encouraged to remind every Soldier (officer and enlisted) of the availability of this training.

There are a few alternatives available for the training on a case by case basis, such as a Soldier who cannot pay for the course up front, or if a group of Soldiers wishes to get together and schedule a class. Unit command personnel can contact the State Safety Office and often times the requests will be met. The only down side of not asking is that the Soldier that needs the training is neglected. Remember, its free, can save you money and can save lives.

For more information go to <http://www.southdakotasafetycouncil.org> / and click on motorcycle safety training or call any member of the SDARNG Safety Office.

Parents rejoice, kids are dreadful, risks go up

Somewhere between mid-August and the first of September public schools will reopen their doors and kids will return to the classroom. As the new school year begins there will be more early morning traffic, school buses starting and stopping and sidewalks and crosswalks will be filled with children.

Many people still don't know that at uncontrolled crosswalks, pedestrians have the right of way. That means if there is not a traffic light or stop sign vehicles must yield.

However that does not mean that those pedestrians crossing illegally are targets. Be especially watchful for those running out from between parked cars and kids on bikes.

School buses are hardly ignorable. Large yellow slow moving objects that once you're behind one, it seems you're stuck there. They stop frequently for students and all rail crossings. Leave plenty of room if your following and once you see the amber lights come on it is not time to pass. For opposing traffic, it is illegal to

pass a school bus with red lights unless you are on a divided highway. Also, many high school students must drive, which means younger drivers are on the road with limited experience. Just remember to take you time in you commute.

Parents must be mindful of another hazard: overloaded students. Book bags and back packs with text books, note books, lunch and miscellaneous other items can cause muscle strains and back injuries. Check the kids to make sure they aren't overloaded.

Composite Risk Management will keep you safe

Composite risk management is a tool that can be used by any level, any Soldier in virtually any instance.

From company operations in the field, a small convoy movement from town to town, a recreational activity scheduled during IDT or AT, or even in your own family outings.

Chances are, in one form or another, you may have used it without even thinking about it.

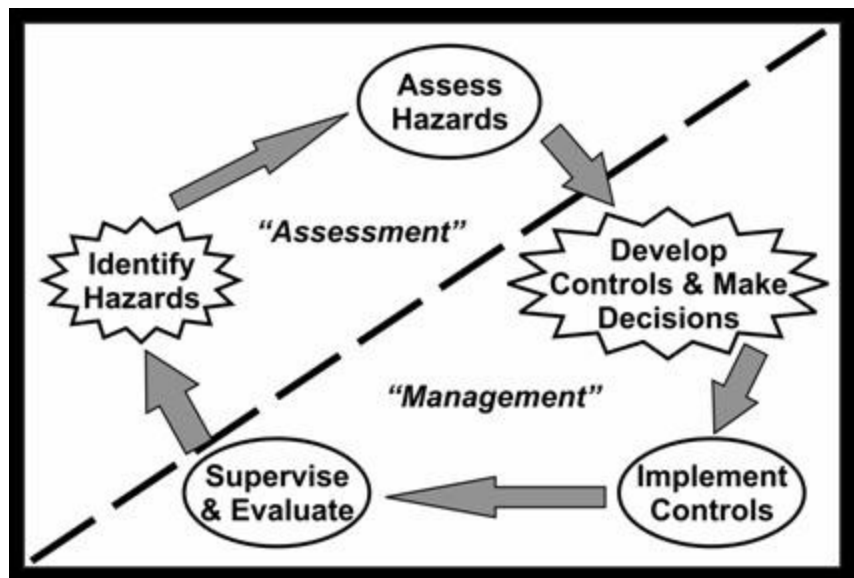
Have you ever altered the course of a road trip once you realized what kind of weather you may encounter? Or ever looked at the job at hand and decided that you just don't have the right tools?

Now combine those hypothetical situations with the below matrix's and you have performed CRM.

CRM is a requirement while on duty and is an ongoing process that must be reevaluated when

glitches occur, tasks are completed or as conditions change.

Once CRM has been performed, and the residual risk is determined to be extremely high, while on duty the CRM Worksheet must be signed by an O-6 or higher. Off duty it's a different story and one must use good judgment and sound reasoning. You may even want to check with W-6 Command (your spouse).



RISK ASSESSMENT MATRIX		HAZARD PROBABILITY				
		Frequent	Likely	Occasional	Seldom	Unlikely
		A	B	C	D	E
SEVERITY	Catastrophic I	Extremely High				
	Critical II		High			
	Moderate III		Moderate		Low	
	Negligible IV					

The discipline to disconnect.

**Is your battle buddy
overly dependant
on a mobile device?**

The signs are all around.
It's up to **YOU** to recognize
and act on them.



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